

The unsavory Vanderbilt will case, which furnished delectable reading to lovers of the prurient until it was compromised for very shame, would not offer, one might think, very desirable material for a novel. But a Chicago publisher is of a different opinion, for he has just issued a book entitled "The Verdendorps," whose incidents and characters are obviously drawn from the unfortunate family complication leading to the suit. Indeed, no attempt is made to conceal the source whence it is borrowed. Not only the late CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT, the second wife, and other VANDERBILTS are transparently described, but Dr. C. F. DEEMS, and the Judges and lawyers are presented so as to be unmistakable. The author purports to be Basil Verdendorp, who plainly stands for CORNELIUS J. VANDERBILT, the plaintiff in the late suit. The story, if it may be called such, is realistic to an extraordinary degree. Everything is set forth with a rugged baldness that is positively unpleasant. The one exception is the narrator, who is pictured as a virtuous, honorable, much-abused man, struggling heroically for his rights. The close of the novel differs from the case, whose end, it has been intimated, is not yet. Basil shoots Richard C. Verdendorp dead, and a jury, after hearing of the grievous wrongs he has sustained, acquits him on the ground of justifiable homicide. The vast property is distributed, and loses from 25 to 35 per cent. of its value. The book is entirely destitute of literary merit, which is apparently not attempted. The purpose of the work would seem to be at once personal and malignant.

## Vanderbilt



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